Vol. VIII. Numb. 16

THE OBSERVATOR.

Reasons for reducing Sicily, *and not giving that Country and* Naples *to the* French, *as the Terms of a Peace. Arguments for insisting on the Terms demanded by the Queen and Parliament, and pushing on this Campaign with Vigor.*

From Wednesday, March 23. to Saturday, March 26. 1709.

Obs. WHAT News have we about the Peace now, *Roger?*

Country-m. The News about it is as uncertain as ever, Master. Some say, the Negociations are quite broke off; others say, they are still on foot; some say, the *French* have made such and such Propoials; others say, that nothing of what they have propos'd, is yet known to the Publick; so that I find every Body in the Dark about it, and I wish with all my Heart, there may be nothing of the Works of Darkness in it.

Obs. Amen, *Roger*; but if there be, I hope they will be discover'd. The Address of our Lords and Commons, her Majesty's Concurrence with them, her several Speeches, and their vigorous and just Resolves to admit of no Peace, without the whole *Spanish* Monarchy, are known to the World, and will allow of no Works of Darkness on our Part. The House of *Austria* is too much concern'd both in Honour and Interest, to be guilty of any on theirs. The *Dutch* are too wise, and know their own Danger too well, from the exorbitant Power and despotical Government of *France*, to be for an unsafe and dishonourable Peace. The Protestant Princes and States of the Empire, as we may perceive by the vigorous Efforts that the Greatest of them have made, and still continue to make, seem to be of the same Opinion; so that we are not to suspect any unfair Dealing from them: They know too well how much their Interest suffer'd by the Treaty of *Ryswick*, how much the *French* chicaned with them, and what intollerable Hardships the Protestants of the *Palatinate* and of *Montbelliard*, &c. suffer'd after that Treaty, to give their Consent to such another.

Country-m. I am glad to hear that, Master, tho' I could wish the Empire were more vigorous in their Efforts, and did not lay the other Confederates under the unreasonable Necessity of defending them, as well as themselves. But all this While, Master, I hear nothing of the Elector of *Hannover*'s being like to be put in a Condition to do any Thing to Purpose against the *French* on the *Upper Rhine*, where that fiery Spark the Duke of *Burgundy* talks of doing such mighty Feats this approaching Campaign.

Obs. I am sorry for that, *Roger*, but see little Hopes of Redress. What do you hear about reducing *Sicily*; for to me that seems a Matter of too much Importance, to be neglected?

Country-m. I hear very little about it, Master: But why do you think that a Matter of such Importance? That Country lies at a great Distance from us.

Obs. 'Tis of Importance, *Roger*, because nothing could more effectually keep the Pope, and other Princes and States of *Italy*, from playing Tricks with us when the Main of the Confederate Troops are withdrawn from thence. Besides, *Roger*, since there has been a Talk of demanding that Country and the Kingdom of *Naples* to the Duke of *Anjou*, as the Conditions of Peace, it would seem to be our Interest to get *Sicily* into our own Hands; for, in my Opinion, if the *French* have *Naples* and *Sicily*, 'twill be a very dangerous Partition not only for the Princes and States of *Italy*, whom they may over-run at Pleasure, and invade the Empire again by way of *Istria*, or by passing the *Alps*, but very dangerous for our Trade to the *Streights* and the *Levant*. 'Twill give the *French* King one of the best Opportunities he can desire, to enlarge his Naval Power, which 'tis certainly our Interest to diminish as much as possible; for tho' *Sicily* and *Naples* lie far from *Great Britain*, they lie too near *Toulon* and *Marseilles*: so that the *French* King, by being poss'sses'd of those Countries, may soon make himself Master, not only of *Minorca*, and its noble Harbour of *Port Mahone*, for the reducing of which we have justly valu'd our Selves, but of all the other Islands in the *Mediterranean*: So that to me 'tis apparent, that to give up *Sicily* and *Naples*, is to put the *French* King in a Condition to retake *Spain* when he pleases; and then we have been fighting so many Years for nothing.

Country-m. I did not apprehend those Consequences from giving up *Naples* and *Sicily*, Master; but if it be so, to yield those Countries to *France*, is just to leave him so much of the *Spanish* Dominions, as may enable him to retake the whole: which, to me, looks like boiling a Kid in the Milk of its Dam; therefore I wonder the reducing of *Sicily* has been so long neglected, especially considering the frequent Advices we have had, that the *Sicilians* want only a Body of Troops, to enable them to revolt, and sing their Vespers again; which would make the *French* Cock chant but sorrily.

Obs. Our Commons are enquiring into the Debts and Management of our Fleet, *Roger*; and if the Funds hitherto given for enabling us to act that Part with our Navy, which is our natural Province, have not hitherto been sufficient, there's no Doubt but they will give more; for that, under God, must be our chief Security, and the best Instrument we have to make Use of for annoying the common Enemy, and defending our selves: But then we must take Care to prevent such Misapplications of Money given for that End, as have sometimes been complain'd of, and not suffer our poor Seamen to be cheated of their Money by tricking Vecals, &c.

Country-m. We must talk about our Fleet another Time, Master: But pry'thee let's now go on with what relates to the Peace; for since we have so much Advantage of the *French* at present, would be the most dishonourable, as well as impolitick Thing in the World, for us to lose that by a Treaty, which we are in so fair a Way of obtaining by the Sword, if Heaven have not said the contrary.

Obs. You say very well, *Roger*; we have now the bravest Generals, and the best Army in the World. Our Troops are so inur'd to Victory, and the *French* so much dispirited with their Losses, their veterane Troops are reduc'd to so small a Number; and if we may believe our Advices, their new-levy'd Men are such poor miserable Fellows, and the *French* King's Treasury is so much exhausted, that if we come to a Peace now, without having the Terms our Queen, Lords, and Commons have so frequently declar'd to the World they will insist upon, 'twould seem to be a very ungrateful Return for the favourable Providences, by which Heaven has enabl'd us to demand them, and may bring such a Curse upon us, as came upon *Ahab*, for making

King Peace with the Syrians, *when God had deliver'd them into his Hands; which was, that his Life went for* Benhadad's, *and the Lives of the* Iſraelites, *for thoſe of the* Syrians; and would be juſt ſuch a Part as *Joaſh*, the King of *Iſrael*, acted, *who defeated the* Syrians *but thrice, when God had put it in his Power to have done it ſo often, 'till he had conſum'd them*, 1 *Kings* 20. from Verſ. 32, to the End, and 2 *Kings* 13, from Verſ. 15 to 20.

Country-m. I think the Quotations ſuit the Caſe exactly, Maſter; therefore, tho' the *French* King ſhould ſend his Ambaſſadors with Sack-cloath on their Loins, with Ropes upon their Heads, or about their Necks, I am ſure, were every Body of *Roger*'s Mind, he ſhould never be let go, ſince Providence ſeems to have appointed him to utter Deſtruction, as it would have done *Benhadad*, had not the King of *Iſrael* ſav'd him, and ruin'd himſelf by a fooliſh and wicked Peace: Therefore I hope, Maſter, the Allies will liſten to no other Terms, than diſgorging all his Conqueſts, and pulling down his *Babel* of deſpotical Power that, like another *Nebuchadnezzar*, he has built ſo high by the Might of his Power, and for the Honour of his Majeſty, but to the Ruin of his Subjects, and the Deſtruction of his Neighbours: And I think 'twould be but a juſt Puniſhment upon him, Maſter, that he who governs Men like Beaſts, ſhould be ſent to herd among Beaſts; and for my Part, I know none fitter for him to keep Company with, than ſuch as are mew'd up in the Seraglio of St. *Cyr*, where he may put upon his old Puſs *Maintenon* and her Kits, that as he has liv'd a beaſtly Tyrant, he may die like a *Sardanapalus*.

Obſ. You muſt talk with more Reſpect of Crown'd Heads, *Roger*.

Country-m. I ſhall never learn Court-Manners, Maſter. The old *Romans* for my Money, who ſentenc'd *Nero*, that made all Mankind Slaves, to be whipp'd to Death like one, had he not prevented it by being his own Executioner; wherein I think he was much in the Right, for tho' I hate Suicide, he could not fall by the Hands of a greater Villain, tho' his Crown was as bright, and ſtood once as high as that of *Lewis* the XIV.

Obſ. I perceive thou ar't old *Roger* ſtill, and not to be converted by the *Rehearſer*'s Lectures of Slavery. But no more of that at preſent. I agree with you, that he ought to be made diſgorge his Conqueſts, and that his arbitrary Government ſhould be pull'd down; otherwiſe we can never be ſafe. The Friends of the Pretender, and the Enemies of the *Hannover* Succeſſion, will never ſuffer us to be eaſy, while *France* is in a Condition to ſupport his Pretenſions; therefore, except the Terms propos'd by Queen and Parliament, be agreed to, I hope no other will be accepted; but I am more apprehenſive of his Ambaſſadors bringing Piſtoles in their Pockets, than of all the Bounces of M. *de Villars*, and his other Generals. I remember, that Barrels of Olives had more Influence on ſome of the Treaters at *Nimiguen*, and the Mediator too, than all other Arguments; therefore I doubt not, but Care will be taken to ſend ſuch Perſons to treat, when the Time comes, as don't love ſuch Kind of Sauce. If he has a Mind to buy a Peace, let the Purchaſe be paid to the Nations that have been at the Expence of the War, and not pocketted up by Mediators or Plenipotentiaries.

Country-m. I like your Propoſal hugely, Maſter, and hope the War will be manag'd with ſuch Vigor and Honeſty this Campaign, as will put an End to all our Fears of a diſhonourable Peace.

Advertiſements.

This Day is publiſh'd, the Eleventh Part of

☞ Poetical Reflexions, Moral, Comical, Satyrical, &c. on the Vices and Follies of the Age. Containing, 1. A Palinode, to the Lord Halifax. 2. A New-Year's Gift, in a ſhort dehortatory Poem to a Claret-prone Kinſman and God-ſon of mine, againſt immoderate Drinking. 3. A Satyr againſt Love and Women. 4. A Song, to the Tune of the Dame of Honour. 5. Verſes found upon a Tomb in Weſtminſter-Abby. 6. Abigail's Lamentation for the Loſs of her Miſtreſs's Secretary. 7. The Dream, from the French. 8. On Sir H. D---n C---t's being diſmember'd by 12 Voices. 9. High-Church; or, the Cross above the Crown. 10. On his Governeſs. 11. On his Confidant. 12. A Pindarick Ode to both Houſes of Parliament, in behalf of the poor inſolvent Debtors. By ſeveral Hands. Sold by B. Bragge in Pater-Noſter-Row. Price 6d. where may be had all the former Parts, at 6d. each.

Juſt publiſh'd.

☞ Quackery unmask'd; or, Reflections on the 6th Edition of Mr. Marten's Treatiſe of the Venereal Diſeaſe, and its Appendix: and the Pamphlet call'd, The charitable Surgeon, &c. containing a full and plain Detection and Refutation of ſome groſs Errors, &c. of thoſe Authors: Interſpers'd with many new and uſeful Obſervations concerning the Venereal Diſeaſe: and the Method and Medicines proper for its ſpeedy, ſafe, and effectual Curation. Proper Remarks on Mr. Marten's admirable Medicine, and his infallible Preſervative. A full and true Account of Quacks, and their Method of Practice. An Account of ſome excellent Medicines, &c. Highly neceſſary to be read by all Venereal Patients, who would prevent their own Ruin; and by all Phyſicians, Surgeons, and Apothecaries, who are here vindicated from Mr. Marten's Aſperſions. By J. Spinke, licens'd Practitioner in Phyſick and Surgery. Sold by D. Brown without Temple-bar, G. Strahan in Cornhill, J. Woodward in Threadneedle-ſtreet, B. Baker in Weſtminſter-hall, and the Author at the Golden Ball between the Sun and Caſtle Taverns in Honey-lane Market, Cheapſide. Price 1s.

☞ The Scourge of Venus and Mercury, repreſented in a Treatiſe of the Venereal Diſeaſe; together with an Appendix in anſwer to Mr. John Marten's Reflexions thereupon. By J. Sintelaer, Practitioner in Phyſick. Price of the Appendix alone bound 6d, together 3s. 6d. Sold by R. Gofling at the Mitre in Fleet-ſtreet, W. Carter at the Green Dragon in St. Paul's Church-yard, J. Phillips at the black Bull in Cornhill, H. Ribotteau at the Crown near Cecil-ſtreet in the Strand, B. Picard at the 3 Bibles in the Minories, J. Harding in St. Martins-lane near Long-acre, J. Morphew near Stationers-hall, and by the Author at his Dwelling-houſe (late the Duke of Leeds's) in high Holborn, over againſt little Turn-ſtile.

☞ The Chriſtian's Gazette, or News chiefly reſpecting the Inviſible World; Being a Paquet for the Pious Virtuoſi, on Subjects never ſtarted before, viz. 1. The Celeſtial Court, or News concerning that Inviſible World we ſhould correſpond with. 2. The Saints in Heaven will be eternally making new Diſcoveries. 3. The Viſible World is nothing elſe but the diſcloſ'd Image of an occult Deity. 4. The Language of Angels, or the manner how they diſcourſe with God, and one another. 5. No Man ſhall know his Father, Brother, or Wife, in Heaven, as is generally believed. 6. A good Man might live inviſible to all the World but himſelf; with a late inſtance of it in Mr. Welby. 7. There will be a new Sun, Moon and Stars. 8. Proxy-Marriage, or an Eſſay on that Princely cuſtom of Courting by Pictures, and Marrying by Subſtitutes. 9. Due Benevolence modeſtly ſtated, in a Letter to Madam----who denies to her Huſband the Lawful Uſe of the Marriage-Bed. 10. Death-Bed-Charity, or Alms, and no Alms, a Paradox, proving Madam J---N--giving 50 l. a Year to the Poor of St. A--- was no Charity, but (as ſhe vainly thought) a ſort of compounding with God Almighty, for her giving nothing to the Poor in her Life-time. To which is added, A Copy of her unjuſt and ridiculous Will, with a Paraphraſe upon each Legacy, (but more eſpecially upon that of bequeathing her Soul to Almighty God.) The whole being Serious Reflections on the Life and Death of that ſcraping and uſeleſs Miſer, Madam J--N---and upon the Panegyrick-Sermon, preach'd at her Funeral by Dr. C-- of S. A--- Written by the Author of the late Eſſay, entitled, The Hazard of a Death-Bed Repentance. Price 1s. Sold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall.

☞ The Royal Decoction, or, a never-failing Diet-Drink againſt the Venereal Diſeaſe. Its wonderful Efficacy is ſuch, that any Patient may be thereby moſt effectually cur'd, be it of never ſo long ſtanding, and aggravated by ineffectual Salivations, and the Body be cover'd with Scabs, Ulcers, Blotches, and the Legs with Holes, all the Limbs with moſt excruciating Pains, the Palate eaten away, and the Noſe fallen in, &c. This Anti-venereal Decoction eaſes all the Venereal Pains in 8 Days, and in 30 Days perfects the whole Cure, and that without the Uſe of Mercury. The Gentleman, who alone prepares this Decoction, offers to enter into an Engagement, from 100 to 500 Pounds, for the Performance of what he promiſes, if any Patient, tho' diſcourag'd by other Practitioners, will come to his Houſe, he will furniſh them with Neceſſaries, as well as Phyſick, for 8 Days, and if by that time he is not ſatisfy'd that he may be perfectly cur'd, he is free to leave it, without paying any thing for Lodging, Diet, or Phyſick. The Taſte of this Decoction is ſo pleaſant, and the Operation ſo kind to Nature, that big-belly'd Women and Sucklings are daily cur'd with it at all the Seaſons of the Year. The Doctor or his Wife are to be ſpoken with at all ſeaſonable Hours, at the Hand and Urinal, over againſt little Turn-ſtile in high Holborn, (late the D. of Leeds's.) N.B. The Bill at large is to be ſeen hanging up in the Royal Exchange, London.

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